

Serial No. 10/820,434
Reply to Office Action Mailed July 20, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A home automation control system comprising:

a plurality of control panels;

a communication network coupling the plurality of control panels;

a plurality of controlled devices wherein each controlled device implements an interface for communicating control messages based on signaling protocol information, wherein the signaling protocol information differs for at least two of the controlled device interfaces;

processes implemented within each of the plurality of control panels operable to generate command messages relevant to at least any one of the controlled devices;
and

processes implemented within the plurality of control panels operable to handle status messages relevant to at least any one of the controlled devices.

Claim 2 (original): The home automation control system of claim 1 wherein at least one controlled device is directly coupled to one of the plurality of control panels.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The home automation control system of claim 1 further comprising a process executing in at least one of the plurality of control panels operable to receive a message from the packet communication network from another one of the control panels, to interpret the message, and to generate a command message to one of the controlled devices associated with the at least one of the plurality of control panels.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The home automation control system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of controlled devices comprises a subsystem that implements a device ~~specify~~ specific signaling protocol with one or more other controlled devices.

Claim 5 (original): The home automation control system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of control panels implement a plug-in framework that enables addition of plug-in software modules to define functionality.

Claim 6 (original): The automation control system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of control panels each implement a set of plug-in software components independently of a set of plug-in software components implemented in any other of the control panels.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The home automation control system of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6 wherein the plug-in framework comprises a web server to support a web browser graphical user interface.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The home automation control system of claim 7 wherein the framework provides interfaces to hardware platform drivers accessing hardware features of the control panels.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The home automation control system of claim 7 wherein ~~the control panels implements~~ implement a Macromedia Flash graphical environment and the framework provides interfaces to the Macromedia Flash graphical environment.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A control unit for a home automation system, the control unit comprising:

a processor;

memory coupled to the processor for storing data and programmed instructions;

a communication interface configured to ~~coupled~~ couple to external control subsystems;

a network interface configured to couple to other control units and exchange control messages with the other control units;

a plug-in framework executing on the processor; and

a plurality of plug-in applications coupled with the plug-in framework and operable to perform specific functions related to generating and responding to home control messages using the ~~serial-communication-interface-and~~ network interface[.];
and

discovery processes implemented in the processor, where the discovery processes interrogate other control systems and subsystem to learn device-specific signaling protocols for communicating control information with the interrogated systems and subsystems.

Claim 11 (original): The control unit of claim 10 further comprising a built in library of platform drivers, wherein each platform driver implements specific functionality for controlling hardware on the home control unit.

Claims 12-19 (cancelled)

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Claim 20 (new): A home automation control system comprising:

- a plurality of control panels;
- a communication network coupling the plurality of control panels;
- a plurality of controlled devices wherein each controlled device implements an interface for communicating control messages based on a signaling protocol, wherein the signaling protocol differs for at least two of the controlled device interfaces; and
- processes implemented within each of the plurality of control panels operable to generate command messages relevant to any one of the controlled devices.

Claim 21 (new): The home automation control system of claim 20 further comprising a process executing in at least one of the plurality of control panels operable to receive a message from the communication network from another one of the control panels, to interpret the message, and to generate a command message to one of the controlled devices associated with the at least one of the plurality of control panels.

Claim 22 (new): The home automation control system of claim 20 wherein at least one of the plurality of controlled devices comprises a subsystem that implements a device specific signaling protocol with one or more other controlled devices.

Claim 23 (new): The home automation control system of claim 20 wherein the plurality of control panels implement a plug-in framework that enables addition of plug-in software modules to define functionality.

Claim 24 (new): The home automation control system of claim 23 wherein the framework provides interfaces to hardware platform drivers accessing hardware features of the control panels.